

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A sample testing device for testing for the presence of a component of interest in a liquid sample, the device comprising:

- (a) at least one test capillary tube which has an upstream end and a downstream end and which incorporates an agglutination reagent system capable of causing agglutination with said component to be detected;
- (b) a sampling region to which the liquid sample is applied and from which the sample is able to enter the upstream ends of the test capillary(s);
- (c) a power source;
- (d) a detection arrangement electrically associated with said power source for detecting the presence of liquid at a downstream region of said test capillary(s);
- (e) display means operated by said power source for indicating the result of the test; and
- (f) signal processing means ~~associated with the power source, detection arrangement and display means for evaluating the result of the test and providing said result on the display means, wherein the signal processing means comprises a timer which upon activation sets a pre-determined time period for~~ determining whether the liquid sample to reach reaches the detection arrangement within a pre-determined time period,

wherein detection of the presence ~~or absence~~ of the liquid sample at the detection arrangement ~~is made within the pre-determined time period such that presence of the component in the liquid sample produces a negative result and absence of the component in the liquid sample~~ at the detection arrangement within the pre-determined time period produces a positive result.

Claim 2 (original): A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the power source comprises electrodes of dissimilar metals provided at the sampling region of the device, said electrodes being adapted to generate a current when liquid sample is applied to said region.

Claim 3 (original): A device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the electrodes of the dissimilar metals alternate with each other.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the agglutination reagent system comprises beads on which is immobilised a binding partner for said component.

Claim 6 (original): A device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the binding partner is an antibody.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the agglutination reagent system comprises a binding partner for said component immobilised on the walls of the test capillary.

Claim 8 (original): A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the binding partner immobilised on the wall of the test capillary is an antibody.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the agglutination reagent system is capable of causing agglutination in the presence of hCG.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the test capillary is formed by a co-operating plate and lid arrangement, said plate being formed with channels which become capillary tubes on location of the lid.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 10, wherein downstream regions of the test capillary tube have at least one aperture and the detection arrangement is provided beneath said aperture.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detection arrangement comprises a pair of electrodes across which a potential difference may be applied.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the test capillary incorporates a particulate material to enhance the change in flow rate.

Claim 14 (original): A device as claimed in claim 13 wherein said material is an inert particulate material.

Claim 15 (original): A device as claimed in claim 14 wherein said inert particulate material is silica or bentonite.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 13 wherein said particulate material is a swellable polymer.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one control capillary tube having an upstream end and a downstream end, wherein the liquid sample is able to enter the upstream end of the control capillary from the sampling region and the detection arrangement detects the presence of liquid at a downstream region of the control capillary.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 17, wherein presence of the sample in the control capillary at the detection arrangement within the pre-determined time period confirms that the device is functioning normally.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the control capillary comprises a non-agglutinating reagent system.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the timer is activated~~
measurement of the pre-determined time period commences upon application of the sample to
the sampling region.